Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 L-02 EB-03 COME-00 OPIC-01

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EFIN, AG

SUBJECT: PROCTOR AND GAMBLE CLAIM

REFERENCE: ALGIERS 1503

1. WILLIAM GURGANUS, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, PROCTOR AND GAMBLE COMPANY, CALLED ON DEPARTMENT OFFICER (BLAKE) AUGUST 1 TO REVIEW P&G CLAIM AGAINST GOA FOR NATIONALIZED PRO-PERTY IN ALGIERS AND TO REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S FURTHER INTER-VENTION ON COMPANY'S BEHALF. GURGANUS BITTERLY CRITICIZED GOA FOR WHAT HE REGARDED AS FAILURE TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON VERBAL OFFER OF LUMP SUM PAYMENT OF DOLS 800,000 TO COM-PANY AS SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM. IN LENGTHY REVIEW OF COM-PANY'S CASE AGAINST GOA, GURGANUS ALSO CRITICIZED DEPART-MENT FOR WHAT HE REGARDED AS INADEQUATE REPRESENTATION ON ITS BEHALF TO GOA. SUBSEQUENTLY, GURGANUS BACKED OFF FROM LATTER POINT AFTER DEPARTMENT OFFICER REVIEWED NUMEROUS STEPS USINT AND DEPARTMENT HAD TAKEN IN ATTEMPT TO BRING GOA TO MAKE OFFER P&G COULD ACCEPT. DEPARTMENT OFFICER ALLUDED, SPECIFICALLY, TO ORIGINAL ALGERIAN OFFER OF CONFIDENTIAL

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DOLS 650,000 WHICH HE PERSONALLY HAD PERSUADED SOURCE CLOSE

TO GOA IN ALGIERS TO HAVE RAISED TO DOLS 800,000. EMPHA-SIZING THAT DEPARTMENT COULD NOT REPEAT NOT EVALUATE EITHER P&G CLAIM OF DOLS 2.1 MILLION OR GOA COUNTER PROPOSAL, DEPARTMENT OFFICER ASSURED GURGANUS OF CONTINUING USG INTEREST IN SEEING SETTLEMENT EFFECTED WITH WHICH P&G COULD LIVE.

- 2. THROUGHOUT DISCUSSION, GURGANUS ALLUDED TO RESPONSI-BILITY OF USG TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF AMERICAN COMPANIES WHICH HAVE HAD THEIR OVERSEAS PROPERTIES NATIONALIZED OR CONFISCATED WITHOUT COMPENSATION AFTER HAVING TRUSTED IN HOST GOVERNMENT'S GOOD FAITH AND USG WILLINGNESS BRING MAXIMUM PRESSURE TO BEAR ON HOST GOVERNMENT IN EVENT AMERI-CAN PRIVATE INVESTMENT THREATENED. GURGANUS CITED CASES IN LATIN AMERICA IN WHICH, IN HIS JUDGMENT, DEPARTMENT HAD NOT PROCEEDED VIGOROUSLY AGAINST FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. HE ASKED WHETHER DEPARTMENT WOULD OBJECT IF COMPANY WROTE LETTER TO GOA PROTESTING AGAINST LATTER'S PROPOSAL THAT DOLS 800,000 COMPENSATION BE PAID IN SEVERAL INSTALLMENTS. LETTER WOULD REITERATE COMPANY'S CLAIM TO DOLS 2.1 MILLION AND STATE P&G'S INTENTION TO INFORM OTHER AMERICAN FIRMS INTERESTED IN TRADE OR INVEST-MENT INALGIERS OF P&G'S EXPERIENCE.
- 3. DEPARTMENT OFFICER REPLIED THAT DECISION WITH RESPECT TO LETTER AND DECISION WITH RESPECT TO ADEQUACY OF COMPENSATION AND CONDITIONS OF PAYMENT WERE FOR P&G TO MAKE IN LIGHT ITS OWN BEST JUDGMENT. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT EFFORTS WHICH USINT WAS CONTINUING TO MAKE TO HAVE COMPENSATION PAID ON TERMS SATISFACTORY TO COMPANY WOULD BE FRUSTRATED IF P&G WROTE LETTER GURGANUS HAD DESCRIBED. DEPARTMENT OFFICER ALSO NOTED POSSIBILITY OF HIGH LEVEL USG PARTICIPATION IN ALGIERS TRADE FAIR WHICH MIGHT MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO BRING P&G'S CLAIM TO ATTENTION HIGH LEVEL GOA AUTHORITIES. SUCH HIGH LEVEL USG INTERVENTION WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE UNSUCCESSFUL IF P&G IN MEANTIME HAD SENT LETTER GURGANUS HAD DESCRIBED. GOA WOULD REGARD LETTER AS DEFINITIVE BREAK-OFF OF NEGOTIATIONS BY COMPANY.
- 4. MEETING CLOSED WITH COMMENT BY GURGANUS, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MIKE MANATOS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, GOVERN-CONFIDENTIAL

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MENTAL RELATIONS FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE, AND BY GEORGE GIBSON, ASSISTANT COMPTROLLER OF P&G, THAT HE WOULD HOLD OFF ON LETTER HE HAD DESCRIBED WHILE AWAITING RESULTS OF USINT'S FURTHER INTERVENTION WITH GOA AND POSSIBLE INTERVENTION OF US REPRESENTATIVE DURING ALGIERS TRADE FAIR.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST YOU SEEK EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH WHOMEVER YOU THINK MIGHT BE MOST-HELPFUL THIS MATTER, REITERATING OUR DESIRE TO GET THIS CASE, WHICH HAS ALREADY

DRAGGED ON TOO LONG, BEHIND US. IF YOU THINK IT USEFUL, YOU MAY ALSO CONVEY OUR IMPRESSION THAT SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO COMPANY WHICH BELIEVES IT HAS ALREADY OFFERED SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS SIMPLY TO CLOSE BOOKS ON MATTER. (E.G., SHARP REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF ITS CLAIM, WRITE-OFF

OF INTEREST LOST ON INVESTED CAPITAL AND ANY COMPENSATION IT MIGHT HAVE RECEIVED SINCE 1967.) IN VIEW DE MINIMIS SETTLEMENT GOA IS OFFERING, WE BELIEVE ONE-TIME PAYMENT IS FAIR REQUEST ON PART OF COMPANY WHICH NEED NOT SET PRECEDENT FOR CLAIMS BY OTHER FOREIGN NATIONALS. ROGERS

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